



SOUTHWEST REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

SEPTEMBER 2022

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Projected to have the most
annual total job openings

over 2,000

Transportation & Material Moving Occupations

Most grade A and B
annual openings

over 2,000

Legal Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs
Concentration

100%

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Southwest region is projected to have more than 12,500 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (98%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 37 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow more than three times faster than the average growth rate.

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A

1,976 Job Openings
\$55,832 Average Wage

Grade B

6,715 Job Openings
\$41,476 Average Wage

Grade C

3,558 Job Openings
\$35,563 Average Wage

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Transportation & Material Moving	2,065	2,005	97%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,517	1,299	86%
Sales & Related	1,484	871	59%
Production	1,459	672	46%
Healthcare Support	550	531	97%
Education, Training, & Library	525	502	96%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	499	425	85%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	496	408	82%
Management	432	405	94%
Office & Administrative Support	1,241	320	26%
Personal Care & Service	412	275	67%
Construction & Extraction	406	266	66%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	415	248	60%
Business & Financial Operations	290	221	76%
Computer & Mathematical	117	102	87%

Southwest Top Grade Jobs

Now Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Fast Food & Counter Workers 🔥	779	8.9%	\$22,681
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	482	-0.4%	\$27,566
B+	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 🔥	463	15.6%	\$24,470
B	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 🔥	440	6.0%	\$30,274
B+	Stockers & Order Fillers 🔥	303	10.6%	\$27,575
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	299	4.0%	\$27,181
B	Waiters & Waitresses	242	12.6%	\$22,613
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	221	3.0%	\$32,139
A	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	199	38.8%	\$35,601
A	Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	141	18.1%	\$30,232

Next Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	590	24.1%	\$44,944
A	Cooks, Restaurant	254	40.7%	\$24,955
B	Food Batchmakers	191	-0.8%	\$33,350
A	Sales Representatives of Services	153	11.8%	\$57,478
B+	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 🔥	151	5.7%	\$38,066
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	124	-5.5%	\$41,413
A	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers 🔥	109	6.0%	\$54,290
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	105	11.2%	\$23,596
B	Electrical, Electronic, & Electromechanical Assemblers	94	7.2%	\$33,407
A	Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors	91	25.9%	\$28,014

Later Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	General & Operations Managers 🔥	211	10.7%	\$75,239
B+	Registered Nurses 🔥	172	5.0%	\$49,610
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	121	12.4%	\$41,278
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	93	11.9%	\$46,046
B+	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	81	16.0%	\$27,071
B+	Accountants & Auditors 🔥	67	6.4%	\$63,658
B+	Coaches & Scouts	44	25.1%	\$34,440
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	43	11.6%	\$47,926
A+	Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers 🔥	38	25.7%	\$93,002
B	Human Resources Specialists	34	7.3%	\$55,828

🔥 Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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